



# Jason Haas

14th District County Supervisor



14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COUNTY CONNECTION

WINTER 2014-2015

## 14th DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

### Jason Haas

901. N 9th Street, RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 278-4252  
jason.haas@milwaukeecountywi.gov  
county.milwaukee.gov/Haas

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES

- Intergovernmental Relations, Chair
- Finance, Personnel & Audit, Vice-Chair
- Parks, Energy & Environment



Dear Neighbor,

It has been an exciting year for Milwaukee's South Side communities I represent. The Humboldt Park Beer Garden was created, and the bumps on East Layton Avenue were eradicated. The Green Corridor continues to take shape as a community destination. The Saturday afternoon farmers market will have off-street parking next year. More transits lines will be running next year, getting people to jobs. And the community will gain more opportunities to explore and enjoy.

I achieved this bevy of positive results by working with both our local governments and with private interests. We can get much more done by working together, and I'm eager to do more. I hope you value the progress we are making in Milwaukee County, and I wish you and your family a very safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Supervisor Jason Haas, District 14

## COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- Airport Gardens Neighborhood Association
- Bay View Historical Society
- Bay View Garden and Yard Society
- Bay View Neighborhood Association
- Garden District Neighborhood Association
- Hide House Community Garden
- Holler Park Neighborhood Association
- Humboldt Park Watch
- South Shore Park Watch
- South Side Business Club
- Town of Lake Neighborhood Association
- Victory Garden Initiative



Supervisor Jason Haas, District 14  
Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT 500

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Message From Supervisor Haas

A Smooth Future Ahead for East Layton Avenue

2015 Milwaukee County Budget Overview

Eins, Zwei, Drei, Prost!  
Three Cheers for Humboldt Park Beer Garden!

The Green Corridor Gets Even Greener

Copernicus Park Redesign Plan Adds  
Beautification, Amenities, Flood Control



Shoppers filled the Garden District Farmers Market on a cool Saturday afternoon in October.



The tall trees in Morgan Park drop a lot of leaves. Thankfully, the park's neighbors come out to take care of it.



The second Food Truck Friday filled Morgan Park during Bay View Gallery Night with festive people and good food.



A walkway alongside the Garden District Farmers Market and Community Garden.



# 2015 Milwaukee County Budget Overview

On November 6, the Milwaukee County Board passed a \$1.3 billion budget that includes improvements to transit, parks, cultural assets and public safety. A notable addition to the budget is \$10 million for repairs to County Parks, the largest commitment to the parks that Milwaukee County has seen in years. Interest rates are near an all-time low, which created a perfect opportunity to invest in our parks.

This budget also expands our transit system. Four new transit routes starting on January 18: the PurpleLine (27th Street) express bus serving the length of 27th Street, the GoldLine (Wisconsin – UWM), and Route 30X (Sherman – Wisconsin). Seniors and persons with disabilities to ride the bus free beginning April 1 with the “GO” pass. Communication with the public about these changes began on December 2, 2014. RideMCTS.com and the MCTS passenger newsletter will provide about these new services.

Other initiatives by the board include restoring funding to homeless shelters and indigent burials, both of which the County Executive cut in his proposed budget. Our frontline public safety officers in county parks will receive mental health training and body cameras, which will improve both accountability and public safety.

## Eins, Zwei, Drei, Prost! Three Cheers for Humboldt Park Beer Garden!



Sup. Haas enjoys the first pint at Humboldt Beer Garden opening day!

The sound of live polka music added to the merriment this past summer as Humboldt Park visitors enjoyed the Humboldt Park Beer Garden. Milwaukee’s newest beer garden quickly became a valued community gathering spot for families and friends to gather and enjoy being outdoors, with beer. In essence, gemütlichkeit!

As Supervisor Haas predicted, the beer garden was instrumental in eliminating vandalism. When work to build the beer garden began in June, vandalism vanished from the park. For the past several years, so few people were in the pavilion that vandals could get away with tagging, clogging the toilets, even theft

and destruction of property. With beer garden’s debut, with so many people in and watching the park, trouble ended and good times began.

St. Francis Brewery made significant infrastructural repairs and improvements to the pavilion. The most critical repair was to a sewerage line in the men’s bathroom that had broken and was leaking urine behind the wall, creating a terrible stench in the pavilion. The plumbers cleaned up the mess and installed new plumbing in both restrooms. The beer garden staff ensured the restrooms and the pavilion were kept in their best condition in years.



A cheerful crowd enjoys a warm summer afternoon at the Humboldt Park Beer Garden.



Before: The old laminate countertop in the Humboldt Park pavilion concessions stand, and the new tile that has since covered it. After: The bold new decor changed the look and feel of the concessions stand for the better.

2015 will bring an even better beer garden. Additional food and beverage options will be available, and you will be able to bring your own food as before. Also, Supervisor Haas secured a \$5,000 private donation to Humboldt Park Friends. With the funds, the group will have plans drawn up for fully handicapped-accessible restrooms. The work should be completed next year. Thanks to everyone who helped make the Humboldt Park Beer Garden a great place!

## A Smooth Future Ahead for East Layton Avenue

East Layton Avenue on the north side of the airport is now one of the smoothest roads in the city. The 1.3 mile stretch of East Layton Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue on the east and Howell Avenue on the west is County Highway Y. It used to connect the cities of Milwaukee and Cudahy across the unincorporated town of Lake. Although the township no longer exists, that portion of East Layton is still a county highway. Supervisor Haas was able to invoke a 1918 law to have the state perform maintenance on county highways.

This past spring, the state of Wisconsin paid for the smoothing of the road through a diamond grinding. Next year, East Layton will get an asphalt surface. The road will not fully closed at any time. Also, the city of Milwaukee will install a series of beautifying, rainwater runoff-absorbing bioswales, which will further improve the road.

East Layton has also been the focus of ongoing intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnership. The group Gateway to Milwaukee played a central role in coordinating efforts between Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, the Village of St. Francis, the State of Wisconsin and private contractors.

## The Green Corridor Gets Even Greener in 2015

The new off-street parking lot at the Garden District Farmers’ Market on S. 6th Street and W. Norwich Avenue will provide another example of “green” property development. The once-idle land has become a usable area with permeable paving, seating areas, bioswales and a fruit orchard. The construction process also served as a work training program in which local workers were trained in installing sustainable. Workers also restored another section of the WPA-era fence that ran along the old North Shore Line railroad. The new orchard will join the orchard that Supervisor Haas helped build at Tippecanoe Park and Clement Avenue School in 2013.



Construction on the latest Green Corridor improvements wrapped up in late November. A new fence line, planted fruit trees, and the finishing touches on the parking lot are visible.

This project is another one of the latest results of the ongoing collaboration between Supervisor Haas and Alderman Terry Witkowski. The Milwaukee County Dept. of Administrative Services - Economic Development, City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and Energy Exchange Inc. All labor and pavers that went into the construction were donated via Energy Exchange.

## Copernicus Park Redesign Plan Adds Beautification, Amenities, Flood Control

Supervisor Haas’s ongoing collaboration with the city will bring improvements to Copernicus Park and relieve flooding on the southwest side. More than 100 homes south of W. Grange Avenue and east of S. 27th Street have experienced basement flooding and sewage backups during heavy rainstorms, which have become more frequent in recent years.

The initial and final drafts of the plan were presented at two public meetings held at Cooper Elementary School on S. 21st Street. One of the immediate goals of the master plan is to mitigate flooding by incorporating green infrastructure amenities into the park without compromising existing park programming. The community’s ideas were then used to identify constraints within the park. Based on comments, a vast majority neighborhood residents (52 of 54) were in favor of the proposal at the final public meeting on October 29, 2014. The final report will be presented to open meetings of the Milwaukee Common Council and the County Board for acceptance and implementation. The results will guide additional city-county flood prevention collaborations in other parks.

The plan is available to view online at: <http://www.copernicuspark.com>.